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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Port and Harbor Facilities at Mezen

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

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This report was obtained by the Department of the Navy and is disseminated by CIA in accordance with paragraphs 3c of National Security Council Intelligence Directive #7.

1. Mezen is a lumber exporting port. The only modern equipment noticed was US-made "Ross Carriers," for the handling of lumber. Two pontoon wharves, one under construction, located at Kamenka, about four miles north of Mezen. No storage or warehouse facilities. A Port "Commissioner" handles all business dealings and is in charge of port security. A large amount of air activity noted in area. Lumber for export brought to Mezen by barge from hinterland.

2. Port Facilities

Mezen is located on the Mezen River, last of the entrances to the White Sea, at Lat 65° 52' N, Long 44° 17' E. There are no storage facilities at Mezen. A dirt road leads from the river bank up a hill to high level ground. A few stores and houses are located and where lumber is stacked awaiting shipment. Ships loading and unloading do so at Kamenka, a small sawmill town about four miles north of Mezen. This anchorage will hold about five ships the size of four or five thousand tons. A very good lay-holding ground was encountered here. Telephone and telegraph facilities were available.

3. Harbor - Entrance and Approaches

According to source, he departed Murmansk on 15 May 53 and arrived off Morjovets Island (Morzhovets Island) on 25 May 53, where he became icebound for four days, finally entering the mouth of the Mezen River on 29 May 53. Source stated that he requested permission to pass north of Morjovets Island to avoid ice, but was denied permission. No ice breakers were observed in the area during the time he was icebound in the narrow strait between Morjovets Island and the mainland. Source said he repeated radio calls brought no answer. A few huts were observed on Morjovets Island, but no people were sighted.

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